

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 5-9, 12, 13 and 16-18 are now present in this application. Claims 1, 6, 8 and 9 are independent. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 4,972,951 (Vartanian). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 4,972,951 (Vartanian) in view of Japan Patent No. 2003-236953 (Nakajima).

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 4,972,951 (Vartanian) in view of US Patent No. 6,116,427 (Wu). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 4,972,951 (Vartanian) in view of US Patent No. 6,116,427 (Wu et al.) and further in view of Japan Patent No. 2003-236953 (Nakajima). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

In the "Response to Arguments," the Examiner alleges that Vartanian does teach that a "bottom section below the flange-like engaging section shows opening space which is a gap and it has the ability of allowing the carrying section to engage therein to pick up the display substrate accommodating tray. Also the gap in the flange-like engaging section has the ability to allow the carrying section to move horizontally therein because there is sufficient space therein." (Office Action at page 7).

The Examiner further asserts that it is well known that there is a variety sizes of human hands and the small hand has the ability of inserting in the small opening space of the flange-like engaging section.

Further the Examiner presents an argument that the carrying section would still have the ability of accessing the flange-like section in the bottom of a stacked tray, and that trays are not necessarily stacked all of the time.

Applicant submits that the Examiner's assertions are not based on the plain teachings of Vartanian. Vartanian does not disclose human hand sizes and that the so-called gap has sufficient space that would allow a human hand to move horizontally and engage a tray. Instead, Vartanian teaches dimensions of the disclosed tray that would indicate that the so-called gap would not have sufficient space for a human hand: first, that the tray of Vartanian is for carrying video tapes/cassettes which at the time of the invention were of standard size, and second, Vartanian specifically discloses depressions 54 and 56 as being a "finger recess," i.e., about the size of a finger.

In order to advance prosecution, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 9 to further define the horizontal gap as "extending to the outer periphery of the display substrate accommodating tray..., to be engaged by a carrying section moving from outside the periphery horizontally into the horizontal gap.

Applicant submits that Vartanian does not disclose at least this structure for the horizontal gap. For example, the area beneath the ledge 42 of Vartanian, which the Examiner has alleged corresponds to the claimed "gap" is not horizontal and certainly does not extend to the outer periphery of the tray 10 of Vartanian. Instead, Vartanian discloses a side wall 22 extending around the complete circumference of the tray 10, and subsequently the area beneath the ledge 42 of Vartanian only extends horizontally to the wall 22.

Furthermore, Vartanian does not disclose a flange-like engaging section having a structure capable of being "engaged by a carrying section moving from outside the periphery horizontally into the horizontal gap for carrying the display substrate accommodating tray." Applicant submits that regardless of whether the tray of Vartanian is stacked, sitting on any kind of surface or even floating in the air, a carrying section (which the Examiner is equating with a human hand) cannot move from outside the periphery horizontally into the area beneath the ledge 42 in order to engage

the tray. Applicant submits that in order to enable carrying the tray of Vartanian by moving from outside the periphery horizontally into the so-called gap of Vartanian, one would have to break through a side wall 22. Applicant submits that such a requirement is inconsistent with the claimed horizontal gap which does enable engaging by a carrying section moving from outside the periphery horizontally into the horizontal gap.

Applicant submits that Wu and Nakajima fail to make up for at least this deficiency in Vartanian.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that the cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to teach each and every claimed feature. Accordingly, the rejections must be withdrawn.

Request for Reference

In a section "Response to Arguments, the Examiner states that it is well known that there is a variety sizes of human hands and the small hand has the ability of inserting in the small opening space of the flange-like engaging section, disclosed in Vartanian.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner supply a reference showing that it is known that a small hand would be inserted in the gap alleged as the flange-like engaging section of Vartanian, in a manner of the claimed invention.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 6-8, 13 and 16-18 are allowed.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter in this application.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact **Robert W. Downs**, Registration No. 48222 at the telephone number of the undersigned below to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

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Respectfully submitted,

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